

The Bulletin

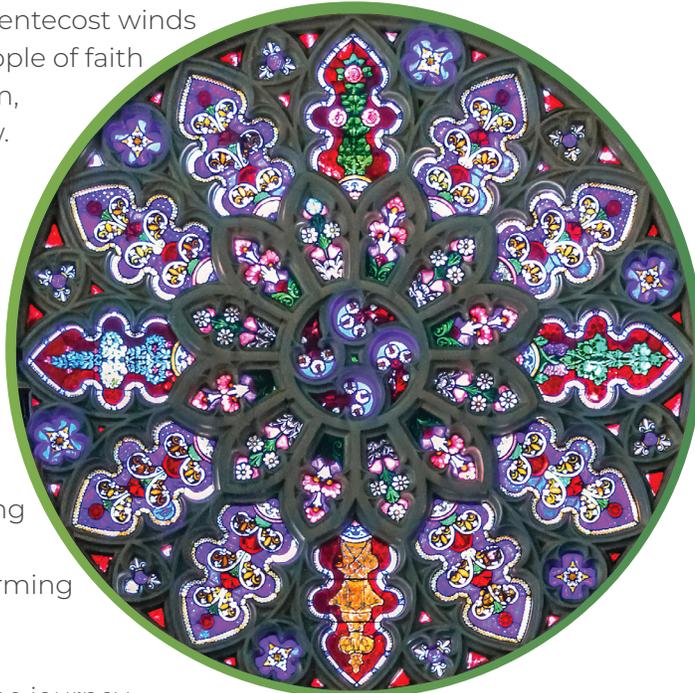


Join us as 100 percent of our congregations become 100 percent vital and thriving

United Methodists embrace vitality

United Methodists across the region and the world are claiming a spirit of renewal. Pentecost winds are blowing as people of faith connect to Reclaim, Revive, and Renew.

In our pews and our pulpits, new conversations are beginning. At the heart of who we are, we're listening for God's call, creating beloved community, making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming the world.



Rose Window, Mt. Vernon Place UMC, Baltimore

We need you on the journey.

With this new monthly communication, we invite you to reclaim your identity as a child of God, revive your spirit, and renew your commitment to ignite a movement that brings God's kin-dom to life.

Learn more on the affiliation websites: the Peninsula-Delaware Conference at www.pen-del.org and Baltimore-Washington Conference at www.bwcumc.org.

Bishop's message

God loves you and will never forsake you. Throughout each page of Scripture, God's unfailing love and presence is there. Even when we have been disobedient or wayward, God is with us, restoring and rebuilding. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. That, beloved, is good news!

In this season within The United Methodist Church, some people have felt compelled to choose sides, and even leave the denomination because they found it impossible to worship and serve with people they disagreed with. But beloved, God sees beyond our differences to a truth that we cannot fully understand.

I'm not sure that United Methodists ever have, or ever will, completely agree upon everything, nor do I believe that would necessarily be a good thing. Whether discussing theology or politics, being in conversation with those who hold differing understandings and beliefs is healthy and can broaden our perspective. It can increase our empathy and enhance our shared humanity.

As we move into the future, reclaiming, renewing and reviving who we are as United Methodists, may we do so with the assurance that God's love and presence are a gift to us all. Today and every day, let us claim and celebrate the life-giving power of God's unfailing love.

United Methodists are Reclaiming, Reviving, and Renewing their faith and their churches. Learn more:



Learn more about our bishop:



Churches define & claim vitality



Vitality is not about budget or size. Vital churches do not count nickels and noses. Rather they claim a holy imagination, spending time and resources on vision, mission, and building relationships in the community. Vital churches focus on where and to whom God is calling them.

Vitality is defined by four pillars (www.pdcbbc.org/church-vitality.html) and the interactions that unfold between the pillars. The four traits of vitality include:

SEEING ALL THE PEOPLE

drives us to build authentic relationships that create belonging as everyone feels known and valued as Children of God.

DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP creates paths for more people to witness Jesus Christ through acts of justice, compassion, devotion, and worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

LIVING & LOVING LIKE JESUS moves us from the seats to the streets as we take the gospel beyond the walls of our buildings.

MULTIPLYING IMPACT aligns our mission to God's call by listening and discerning with the broader community how we might reshape ministry and repurpose resources for the greatest good.

The leaders of the Peninsula-Delaware and Baltimore-Washington Conferences have committed to 100 percent of their churches becoming 100 percent vital as they live out Jesus' call in John 10:10 for all to have abundant life.

JOIN BISHOP EASTERLING ON A
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE
JANUARY 2024

BWCUMC.ORG/HOLY-LAND-PILGRIMAGE

ISRAEL **JORDAN** **JERUSALEM**